

HOUSE No. 2205

By Mr. Walsh of Lynn, petition of Steven M. Walsh and others for legislation to make certain changes in the law relating to billboards. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Steven M. Walsh
Martin J. Walsh

Douglas W. Petersen

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT MAKING CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE LAW RELATING TO BILLBOARDS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 14 of Chapter 16 of the General Laws, as
2 most recently amended, is hereby further amended by striking said
3 section and inserting in place thereof the following:
4 Section 14. There shall be in the outdoor advertising division a
5 board to be known as the outdoor advertising board, consisting of
6 three members, one to be appointed by the governor, with the
7 advice and consent of the council, one to be a member of orga-
8 nized labor in the outdoor advertising industry to be recom-
9 mended by the Greater Boston Central Labor Council, and the
10 third member to be the commissioner of highways, or an
11 employee of the department of highways to be designated by him
12 from time to time as his representative on the board. It shall be the
13 duty of the commissioner of highways, or the employee of the
14 department of highways designated by him as his representative
15 on the board, in addition to his other duties as member of the
16 board, to arrange for the co-operation of district engineers and
17 other field employees of the department of highways in reporting
18 the location of billboards, signs or other advertising devices along
19 state highways, and in enforcing the rules and regulations of the

20 board. The member of the board to be appointed by the governor
21 shall be designated to serve for two years from June first, in the
22 year of appointment. The member of organized labor shall be des-
23 ignated to serve for three years from June first, in the year of
24 appointment. Upon expiration of the term of such a member, his
25 successor shall be appointed in the manner aforesaid, for four
26 years. The governor shall from time to time designate one of the
27 members as chairman of the board, and, with the advice and con-
28 sent of the council, may remove any appointed member for cause,
29 and, with like advice and consent, shall fill any appointive
30 vacancy for the unexpired term, subject to the recommendation
31 process described in this section. Each member shall hold office
32 until the appointment and qualification of his successor. When-
33 ever any action by the board is required to be in writing, such
34 writing shall be sufficient when signed by any two of the mem-
35 bers. The board shall make an annual report for the preceding cal-
36 endar year, setting forth the number of permits granted, the
37 number of permits refused, the number of hearings held, the
38 number of illegal signs removed, and other relevant matters, to the
39 general court and to the commissioner of highways in January of
40 each year. The chairman of the board shall receive from the com-
41 monwealth as compensation the sum of sixty-two dollars and fifty
42 cents for each day spent in the performance of his official duties,
43 but not exceeding forty-three hundred and seventy-five dollars in
44 any one year, and the other member recommended by the Greater
45 Boston Central Labor Council shall receive the sum of fifty dol-
46 lars for each such day, but not exceeding thirty-five hundred dol-
47 lars in any one year. Each member of the board shall be
48 reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred by him in the perfor-
49 mance of his official duties. No member who is regularly
50 employed by the commonwealth shall receive compensation for
51 his services as member of the board, but may be reimbursed for
52 necessary expenses incurred by him in the performance of his
53 official duties as member of the board as aforesaid. The board
54 shall appoint, subject to chapter thirty-one, an officer, to be known
55 as the executive director, who shall be the administrative and
56 executive officer in charge of all administrative and executive
57 details.

1 SECTION 2. Section 29 of Chapter 93 of the General Laws as
2 most recently amended is hereby further amended by inserting at
3 the end thereof the following:

4 Notwithstanding any requirement of any ordinance or by-law
5 restricting billboards, signs, or other devices adopted by any city
6 or town, no new permit, no renewal of any permit, and no transfer
7 of any permit for such billboard, sign, or device shall be approved
8 unless a public hearing is held by the appropriate local officials in
9 the city or town. Said public hearing shall occur only after notice
10 has been given and advertised by the applicant for at least seven
11 days in a local newspaper of general circulation, in a form to be
12 prescribed by the city or town.